In the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A computerized method for execution by a client, the method comprising:

transmitting a request to download data from a server;

receiving identification information on and data downloaded from one of a plurality of content providers storing said data, said identification information identifying said one content provider and obtained by said one content provider from said server an original content provider of said data; and

transmitting, to said original content provider, said identification information for said one content provider of said plurality of content providers, which allowed downloaded of said data, to said server along with payment for the download of said data;

transmitting, to said original content provider, a request for a distribution tool identifying said client;

receiving said distribution tool; and

applying said distribution tool to said data to identify said client as a content provider for said data.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said data is encrypted and contains a plurality of encrypted content files.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said identification information further comprises a distribution tool identifying said one content provider, applying said distribution tool being embedded comprises embedding said distribution tool within said data.

5-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 6 1, wherein said distribution tool is comprises a digital watermark.

8. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein transmitting said identification information further comprises:

transmitting said payment for download of a decryption tool for decrypting said data; and

receiving said decryption tool ~~from said server~~.

9. (Currently amended) A <u>computerized</u> method <u>for execution by an original content provider, the method</u> comprising:

~~receiving a request to download data from a client;~~

~~transmitting information on a plurality of content providers storing said data, if said request cannot be accommodated; and~~

receiving<u>, from a client,</u> identification information for one <u>of a plurality of</u> content providers<u>,</u> which ~~allowed~~<u>downloaded</u> of ~~said~~ data <u>to said client</u>, along with payment for the download of said data<u>;</u>

<u>receiving, from said client, a request for a distribution tool identifying said client;</u> <u>and</u>

<u>transmitting said distribution tool to said client for subsequent application of the distribution tool to said data by said client to identify said client as a content provider for said data.</u>

10. (Original) The method according to claim 9, wherein said data is encrypted and contains a plurality of encrypted content files.

11. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, wherein ~~said identification information further comprises a distribution tool identifying said one content provider,~~ said <u>application of said</u> distribution tool <u>by said client</u> ~~being embedded~~<u>comprises embedding said distribution tool</u> within said data.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently amended) The method according to claim ~~13~~ 9, further comprising storing said distribution tool ~~associated with~~identifying said client.

15. (Currently amended) The method according to claim ~~13~~9, wherein said distribution tool ~~is~~ comprises a digital watermark.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein receiving said identification information further comprises:

      receiving said payment for download of a decryption tool for decrypting said data; and

      transmitting said decryption tool to said client.

17. (Original) The method according to claim 9, further comprising transmitting a fee to said one content provider.

18. (Original) The method according to claim 17, wherein said fee is predetermined and represents a percentage of said payment received for the download of said data.

19. (Currently amended) A system comprising:

      a client configured to transmit a request to download data; and

      a server for an original content provider coupled to said client and configured ~~to receive said request, to transmit information on a plurality of content providers coupled to said server and storing said data to said client, if said server cannot accommodate said request, and~~ to receive identification information for one of a plurality of content ~~provider~~providers, which ~~allowed~~ downloaded ~~of~~ said data, ~~from~~ to said client, along with payment for the download of said data, to receive a request for a distribution tool identifying said client, and to transmit said distribution tool to said client, wherein said client is further configured to receive and apply said distribution tool to said content to identify said client as a content provider for said data.

20. (Original) The system according to claim 19, wherein said data is encrypted and contains a plurality of encrypted content files.

21. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 19, wherein ~~said identification information further comprises a distribution tool identifying said one content provider,~~ applying said distribution tool ~~being embedded~~ comprises embedding said distribution tool within said data.

22-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently amended) The system according to claim ~~23~~19, wherein said server ~~further~~ stores said distribution tool ~~associated with~~identifying said client.

25. (Currently amended) The system according to claim ~~23~~19, wherein said distribution tool ~~is~~comprises a digital watermark.

26. (Original) The system according to claim 20, wherein said server further receives said payment for download of a decryption tool for decrypting said data from said client, and transmits said decryption tool to said client.

27. (Original) The system according to claim 19, wherein said server further transmits a fee to said one content provider.

28. (Original) The system according to claim 27, wherein said fee is predetermined and represents a percentage of said payment received for the download of said data.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently amended) A computer readable medium containing executable instructions, which, when executed in a processing system for a client, cause said system to perform a method comprising:

transmitting a request to download data ~~to a server~~;

receiving identification information and data from ~~on~~ one of a plurality of content providers storing said data, said identification information identifying said one content provider and obtained by said one content provider from ~~said server~~ an original content provider of said data; ~~and~~

transmitting, to said original content provider, said identification information for said one content provider, which ~~allowed~~ downloaded ~~of~~ said data, ~~to said server~~ along with payment for the download of said data;

transmitting to said original content provider, a request for a distribution tool identifying said client;

receiving said distribution tool; and

applying said distribution tool to said data to identify said client as a content provider for said data.

31. (Original) The computer readable medium according to claim 30, wherein said data is encrypted and contains a plurality of encrypted content files.

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Currently amended) The computer readable medium according to claim 30, wherein ~~said identification information further comprises a distribution tool identifying said one content provider,~~ applying said distribution tool ~~being embedded~~ comprises embedding said distribution tool within said data.

34-35. (Cancelled)

36. (Currently amended) The computer readable medium according to claim ~~35~~30, wherein said distribution tool ~~is~~ comprises a digital watermark.

37. (Currently amended) The computer readable medium according to claim 31, wherein transmitting said identification information further comprises:

transmitting said payment for download of a decryption tool for decrypting said data; and

receiving said decryption tool ~~from said server~~.

38. (Currently amended) A computer readable medium containing executable instructions, which, when executed in a processing system for an original content provider, cause said system to perform a method comprising:

~~receiving a request to download data from a client;~~

~~transmitting information on a plurality of content providers storing said data, if said request cannot be accommodated; and~~

receiving, from a client, identification information for one of a plurality of content providers, which ~~allowed~~ downloaded of ~~said~~ data to said client, along with payment for the download of said data;

receiving, from said client, a request for a distribution tool identifying said client; and

transmitting said distribution tool to said client for subsequent application to said data by said client to identify said client as a content provider for said data.

39. (Original) The computer readable medium according to claim 38, wherein said data is encrypted and contains a plurality of encrypted content files.

40. (Currently amended) The computer readable medium according to claim 38, wherein ~~said identification information further comprises a distribution tool identifying said one content provider,~~ application of said distribution tool by said client ~~being embedded~~ comprises embedding said distribution tool within said data.

41-42. (Cancelled)

43. (Currently amended) The computer readable medium according to claim 42 38, wherein the method further comprises storing said distribution tool ~~associated with~~identifying said client.

44. (Currently amended) The computer readable medium according to claim 42 38, wherein said distribution tool ~~is~~comprises a digital watermark.

45. (Original) The computer readable medium according to claim 39, wherein receiving said identification information further comprises:

receiving said payment for download of a decryption tool for decrypting said data; and

transmitting said decryption tool to said client.

46. (Original) The computer readable medium according to claim 38, wherein the method further comprises transmitting a fee to said one content provider.

47. (Original) The computer readable medium according to claim 46, wherein said fee is predetermined and represents a percentage of said payment received for the download of said data.

48. (New) A computerized method for execution by a client, the method comprising:

transmitting a request to receive data;

receiving said data from a first content provider for said data, said first content provider being one of a plurality of content providers making data available to said client;

receiving identification information that identifies said first content provider, said identification information obtained by said first content provider from an original content provider of the data;

transmitting said identification information and payment for said data to said original content provider;

transmitting a request for a distribution tool to said original content provider, wherein said request for a distribution tool identifies said client;

receiving said distribution tool; and

applying said distribution tool to said data to identify said client as a second content provider for said data.

49. (New) A computerized method for execution by an original content provider, the method comprising:

receiving, from a first client, identification information for a first content provider that provided data to said first client, said first content provider being one of a plurality of content providers making data available to said first client;

receiving, from said first client, payment for said data;

receiving, from said first client, a request for a distribution tool, wherein the distribution tool identifies said first client; and

transmitting said distribution tool to said first client to identify said first client as a second content provider for said data.

50. (New) The method of claim 49, further comprising:

receiving identification information and payment for said data from a second client, said identification information identifying said first client.